

THE RIO DE JANEIRO NEWS.

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VOL. XII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 24TH, 1885

NUMBER 3

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—157, Rua das Laranjeiras.
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branch) 11:56 a.m.; São Paulo (R. S. P. & Rio R.R.) 6 p.m.
Downward, leaves São Paulo 6 a.m.; Lafayette 5:05 a.m.;
Entre Rios 6:15 a.m.; arriving at Barra 4:15 and Rio 7:15
p.m. Connects with Valencia line at Desengano; Rio
das Flores line at Commercio; União Mineira line at Si-
cília; Oeste de Minas (S. J. d'El-Rey) line at Si-
cília; Leopoldina line at Porto Novo; Rezendes e Áreas line at
Sirubá; and S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line at Cachoeira.
Limited Express: Upward, leaves Rio 6:40 a.m.; arriving
at Barra 9:40 a.m.; Porto Novo (central line) 5:20; Cachoeira
(S. Paulo branch) 5:38 p.m. Downward, leaves Cachoeira 6:34
a.m.; Porto Novo 6:19 a.m.; arriving at Barra 1:13 and 1:55 p.m.;
Rio 5:38 p.m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Santa
Cruz branch at Sapopemba, and Macacos branch at Belém.
Mixed Trains: Leave Rio at 8:32 a.m., and 3:07, the first
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CANTAGALLO R.R.—Leaves Niterói (Sant'Anna)
7:15 a.m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 12:05; Cordeiro (1 hour
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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY
for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th
of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs
all of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
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GEORGE H. PHELPS, Esq.,

154 Nassau Street,
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Messrs. JOHN MILLER & CO.,
São Paulo and Santos.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 24th, 1885.

We had occasion in our last number to refer to a mischievous rumor as to an emission of paper money. Our only object, as might have been surmised, was to furnish an opportunity for a categorical denial of this from the financial authorities. What might have been refused to our obscure journal has been granted to our colleague of the *Diário do Brasil* by the following extract from the *Diário Oficial* of the 18th inst. "The extract from the *Rio News* published to day by the *Diário do Brasil* is without foundation; there has been no issue of 10\$ and 20\$ notes. If this item was inspired by the circumstance of the *Caixa de Amortização* paying dividends on *apólices* in new notes, the mistake could not have been more lamentable. It is true, that the *Caixa* paid a part of these dividends in new notes of from 500 réis to 200\$ and not only in notes of 10\$ and 20\$. It is not, however, the first time that this occurs, nor will it, certainly, be the last. The treasury agencies (*thesourarias de fazenda*) are employed to exchange with their respective revenues, the torn and called-in notes, and to forward these to the Treasury, as they accumulate. The *Caixa de Amortização* confers them and gives in exchange new notes, which the Treasury forwards to its agencies, or to the Banco do Brazil, or employs them in expenses. There were in the National Treasury, at the end of last year, 2,000,000\$ in notes from these two origins which were sent to the *Caixa*, with orders that after conferring them, the value should be paid over to the treasurer of the dividends, on account of the amount he had asked for." This answer while not quite so categorical as we hoped for,—a simple but unmistakable denial would have satisfied our remarks—is quite as much as could be expected and must be considered as a denial of the truth of, and must silence, all such rumors, as those to which we have referred. Our part in the matter has been concluded; while we did not provoke the answer, still we were instrumental in the official contradiction of a mischievous rumor. As to the remarks our colleague of the *Diário do Brasil* makes in reference to the matter, he is neither fair to us, nor has he correctly translated our remark. "Confidently stated" was the phrase we used and not "informed confidentially"; a wide difference, as the colleague must admit. Moreover, we prefaced this with reference to rumors, which might, could and should be contradicted, and it is hardly fair for the colleague to extract only such part of our item as suited his own uses, without reference to the tenor of the balance of the article. The *Prix* took upon itself to reply

to the *Diário* and considers that this has exceeded the bounds of calumny to the limit of a denouncement. The *Diário* may or may not have had the same idea in view that we had; its principal editor is a high chief in the liberal party, who opposes Senator Dantas' cabinet, which we do not, nor ever have done, and his object may have been to annoy the premier, in which case we were the innocent means of this. It has been a creed among our native colleagues to allow the gravest reports as to financial movements to fly all over our Exchange, without any attempt at official contradiction; a creed that must be recognized as pernicious and needing corrective. If we have been instrumental in causing a reform, we can only say that it gives us the greatest possible satisfaction.

HAVING been successful in one matter, we are naturally animated to repeat our action in asking, if some modification in the manner the Treasury makes its exchange operations, to the end of affecting our market to a less degree, be not possible? *Consule Affonso Celso*, the government had made some arrangement with the Bank of Brazil by which its exchange operations were conducted without the intervention of brokers; but the Bank of Brazil has suspended its operations in exchange and it causes us surprise that the government should not have returned to the old and certainly more business like course of announcing that it will be open to offers of satisfactory paper from any and all. Far better would this be, than as is now the case; when the Treasury makes the greater part—if not all—of its transactions with one bank, and this too, the bank that to our mind is the least able to well serve it. It seems incontestable, that either of the English banks, whose principal business is in exchange, is in better ease to meet the wants of the Treasury than that bank chosen by the minister of finance. The theory and practice of exchanges are not learned in a year or two; they require a severe course of apprenticeship and even with this, mistakes are not unfrequent. Therefore it seems that the authorities should in preference choose an institution that is managed by men who have made exchanges their study, rather than one, whose directory by doing a very extensive and general banking business, cannot have the requisite leisure to make them specialists in the matter of exchanges. It cannot be denied that "secrecy is the soul of business," but what avails secrecy, if every one on the Exchange at once knows when the government is in the market? We have no intention of criticising the direction of the bank chosen by government; it is considered very good, and the dividends prove its condition to be sound; our only object is to suggest that the Treasury exchange operations might possibly be made with less disturbance to the market and perhaps on more favorable terms by adopting one of the two ideas we have suggested. Of the two, the announcement that offers of any and all paper of satisfactory character,—which nearly all made in Rio is—would be taken into consideration seems to us the most judicious; but if financial arrangements make the employment of a bank necessary, then we consider and we feel tolerably sure the import trade will agree with us that this employment should be given one of the banks established in this city, for the reasons we have given above. Always providing that one of them would accept it, which is perhaps doubtful.

The article we publish in another column extracted from the *Jornal do Commercio* relative to the free-born children of slave mothers is, as our colleague says, worthy of note. We however do not think it

worthy of being considered in the same light as that in which the *Jornal* places it. That the planters have kept on their plantations 359,850 free-born children is undoubtedly an item in their favor; and may even be placed, as our colleague desires, to the credit of this empire. But have these 359,850 children done nothing for the planters? Have they not picked out the black beans from the coffee; assisted their mothers in their daily toil; taken charge of pigs, fowls, etc.? In fact, have not the planters had value received for their kind, careful and loving treatment of these children? We are not cynical in our appreciation of the actions of our fellow creatures, but when we are requested to express admiration for an act, that at the best does not exceed common charity, we positively refuse the invitation. When the law of 28th September 1871 offered a bond of 600\$ with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, for each free-born child of a slave mother, the intention must have been, that the child would in this manner be withdrawn from his mother's master and so placed, that by education and apprenticeship he, or she, would be enabled to gain his living. The action of the planters, which our *doyen* considers worthy of note, has been to keep these free-born children on the plantations; they are become nothing more nor less than *free slaves*. How can a boy of eight, or even of eighteen years, understand that he is a Brazilian citizen, when he sees his mother marching off to her daily labour? He will necessarily look up to the slaveholder, as his master and will have no idea whatever that he as a free-man can seek more profitable employment, or demand from his mother's master a monthly payment for his services. The action of the planters in retaining the free-born children of slave mothers on their plantations is worthy of note, but not of commendation. Better, much better would it have been for the planters to deliver them to the state as they reached the legal age and to have relieved themselves from any charge of availing of their services at a nominal expense. The state offered a very fair indemnity; 600\$ at 6 per cent. for thirty years (or placing compound interest aside), 1,080\$ *per capita*, and if the planters, who now seek praise for not having obliged the Treasury to meet the engagements it undertook, had not felt convinced that each young negro was worth more to them than 36\$ per annum, we venture to say, that our colleague would have had no occasion to call the attention of the public to the kindness, care and lovingness of the planter towards the free-born children. It seems to us that the question requires quite as such investigation as commendation, for it looks very much as if it were nothing more nor less than retaining in a state of serfdom, if not of slavery, these children which should have under the law become pupils of the state and not *de facto* slaves of their mothers' masters. We know from experience that in this city the *moleque* is the plaything of the daughters and sons of his mother's master; his treatment is more kind than is necessary; he is allowed free run of the house from the drawing room to the kitchen and feels himself almost on an equality with his foster-brother. Whether this also occurs on the plantations, is not so certain. There are many employments suitable for a child of eight years, or over, some of which we have noticed, and all of which are a fair equivalent for his board and lodging, his *camisola de chita*; of greater value than the 36\$ per annum offered by government. It would almost appear that the action of the planters has paralyzed to a certain extent the Rio Branco law. The object appears to have been to create a class of fairly educated la-

bourers, who could gradually displace the slave; but this is rendered void by the retention on the plantations of the free-born children, who brought up among slave parents and companions must inevitably lose all idea as to their rights and privileges under the law. Here is an opening for the next Chamber of Deputies, and we hope any one of the newly elected deputies will take it up;—what is the state of the free-born children on the plantations; are their services remunerated; are they taught the rudiments of education?

The *Jornal do Commercio* in its remarks on the financial movement of the past year, is judicious, but not entirely in accordance with our views as already freely expressed. That a foreign loan for the improvement, nay, for the giving of any value to our currency, meets serious objections is undeniable. Even could such a loan be negotiated and its proceeds imported into the country in bullion how long is it to be supposed that this would remain here? We say just so long as would be requisite to drain the Treasury. It is perfectly true that Italy succeeded in re-establishing specie payments by means of a loan; but this was perhaps a unique fact in finances and its failure was predicted in more than one financial journal. It had been preceded however by various preliminary steps and was accompanied by a very great improvement in the material condition of the kingdom, through which, more in all probability, did resumption become a fact, than through the importation in bullion of the proceeds of the loan. In the United States resumption of specie payments was preceded by a hoarding of coin and a favorable opportunity availed of, namely when the cereal crops in Europe failing, its markets were forced to pay specie for the corn of the United States, so causing an enormous importation of bullion, and rendering resumption easy and safe. Moreover the United States being a large producer of the precious metals, the effect of the retention of its product and the receiving of supplies through the favorable balance of trade must have caused resumption infallibly. Neither the experience of Italy, nor far less that of the United States avails the statesmen of this country. Resumption cannot be secured by a foreign loan, for the very excellent reason that a foreign loan, save on almost ruinous conditions is not practicable. It cannot be secured by an importation of bullion through a favorable balance of trade, for the balance apparently due the country is almost,—if not completely—absorbed in payments of interest on the foreign debt and to guaranteed corporations. What then remains? Two solutions seem clearly manifested. The first is easy of execution, rapid of effect,—but meets the patriotism of the natives of the country. It is the alienation, although for a short time, of the great work of the empire; it is the shame of a confession of incapacity; it is in fact the leasing of the D. Pedro II railway. Upon our suggesting many years ago that this step would be judicious, we were informed that no such action would be taken into consideration. *Tempora mutantur*; and perhaps *nos mutamur in illis*. Where would patriotism be offended? The railway would not become the property of the company formed to work it. The government could and should fix a date at which the line would revert to the state. That immense, we may almost say incalculable, advantages would accrue to the planters and others using the road through its management by private parties, and these such as have made railway matters a special study, no one can certainly be hardly enough to deny. Therefore, even were there no existing necessity for the

leasing of the railway, a consideration for the general welfare might suggest the propriety of such a step. We can sympathise with the dislike sure to be felt at the sight of a foreign company working the great railway of the empire; but does it not occur with nations as with private individuals? An expenditure exceeding income, must reduce the one as well as the other to pocket his pride, (or patriotism) and submit to that necessity which knows no law. This is a solution which as we have already said, would produce a prompt effect and be readily realized. The second, is the negotiation of a large internal loan and the establishment of banks of issue under a law based upon the National banking law of the United States. Our esteemed colleague of the *Journal* considers there are obstacles to the establishment of a bank of issue. We quite agree with him. There are not only obstacles, but most serious objections to the establishment of one bank of issue, which would be neither more nor less than the creation of an *imperium in imperio*. But obstacles could be overcome and objections met by the creation not of one, but of many banks of issue, under the restrictions of a national banking law; and if our colleague would concentrate his universally conceded intelligence, upon this subject, we feel sure that he would become a convert to our manner of considering it. We have more than once dilated—perhaps even to prolixity—on the subject; but even under a dread of wearying our readers, will venture to call his attention again to the subject. The advantages are: the possibility of negotiating a large internal loan, which would not lock up, but, render mobile the capital therein invested; and that such a transaction would be more judicious than any attempt abroad seems incontrovertible; the increased facility in commercial transactions, leading to economy in the use of currency and to a natural reduction of its volume; the political advantage, which would be created by every province through its banks having a direct interest in the maintenance of the general government, and the undeniable improvement in the character of the currency, which although still possessing the character of a token, would be a token of something and not of nothing at all. The success of the law in the United States, the corrections and amendments of some twenty four years experience are all patent to our statesmen. Will they refuse to avail of this experience? We cannot think they will. When parliament meets let this question be promptly ventilated and its adoption would be a crown of glory for government.

PRAIA GRANDE WATER SUPPLY

The director of public works of the province of Rio de Janeiro asks for proposals for the water works at Niterohy up to April 11th proximo, or to be more correct he says proposals will be received, under the following conditions:

The district to be supplied with water corresponds with that in which house tax (*decima urbana*) is paid. The water is to be brought from the Macacá river and the supply must never be less than 8,000 cubic metres in 24 hours. The water must be accepted by all householders who pay or who may hereafter pay house tax. Houses rented for 20\$ per month will receive 1,200 litres and pay 36\$ per annum; those who require more than one hydrant must pay 30\$000 for the second, 24\$ for the third, 18\$ for the fourth and 12\$ for the fifth. Houses rented for less than 20\$ will receive half a supply, or 600 litres, or a fourth, 300 litres by paying 18\$ and 12\$. In tenements, or as commonly called *cortiços*, a hydrant will be furnished for each six rooms. A source of income to the company also will

be the fines of 100\$ imposed upon such house holders as change the pipes of their hydrants. The houses without the city limits will pay as agreed upon by the company and the householders, which the first will collect and such sums will form a part of its revenue. The public buildings, parks, hospitals and religious (*pios*) establishments supported by the province will be supplied gratuitously, the government being responsible for the pipe laying (? *derivações*) to such as it supports.

The price marked includes all possible expenses and fire hydrants are to be established every 200 metres. The water for the public fountains and hydrants is also to be gratuitous. Two reservoirs, each of a capacity of 8,000,000 litres, are to be constructed. The rights of such parties as received hydrants (*penhas*) by virtue of the law of March 10th, 1860 must be respected. The contractor must place 12 hydrants for the public in the villages through which the mains pass and carry a branch pipe to the town of Ilaborahy, erecting a fountain to cost not over 5,000\$, where the municipal chamber elect. The contractor may furnish water, without prejudice to the supply of Niterohy, to the inhabitants of neighbouring towns, and he may collect the rents, where in such places no house tax is paid, the amount to be estimated as revenue, or where hydrants are sold, to be deducted from the amount of guaranteed capital.

The contractor will enjoy (*sic*) the following advantages: a privilege for 60 years and a guarantee of 6 per cent on the amount actually employed in the works up to a maximum of 5,000,000\$; clear profits, to be considered, are such as are earned after deducting $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent per annum on the guaranteed capital, which is to constitute a sinking fund.

Interest will be paid as the work progresses on the amounts expended and by half years as they expire. *The guarantee of interest to which this paragraph refers depends upon the approval of the provincial assembly.* The right to condemn sources of water, houses and the land necessary for the works will be granted, respecting however the law n. 17 of April 14, 1835, the government to have the right to nominate umpires, in case of arbitrations. The contractor will receive the present hydrants, reservoirs and piping so soon as he be in a position to furnish an equal quantity of water to that now supplied, and after the contract is approved by government. He may lay his pipes along the line of the Cantagallo railway. The province will even, without assuming any responsibility, ask the general government to let the contractor have his picks, shovels, etc., come into the country free of duty. The province, so long as its owns the Cantagallo railway, will absolutely allow the contractor or his representative, the chief engineer and two employes to travel gratis on that road, so long as the works are in construction, and will even after they are finished furnish free passes to the engineer superintendent and the guards who may be necessary for protecting the works; further it will grant 50 per cent abatement on such tools and material transported by the railway as may be employed in the works. The contractor must repair the streets, squares and roads he damages by pipe laying and indemnify such other damages as he may cause. Further, all the works must be kept in unexceptionable order. Also, when he makes over 9 per cent. per annum, the surplus must be employed in reducing the interest guaranteed by the province. Now, after the province has been paid up and the income still exceeds 9 per cent. the surplus must be divided between the province and the contractor. When the time of

privilege expires, the contractor will deliver everything to the province. Proposers will present with their bids, surveys, final plans and specifications accompanied by a memorial describing the work to be executed. The work must commence within three months, etc. etc.

We feel pretty sure that our readers will have wondered, to what end we were translating a string of conditions. Our answer is, that when the general government is generally considered to be hard pushed to arrange the funds necessary for daily use, it is just as well to know, that the province of Rio de Janeiro considers itself in so enviable a position that it may impose these conditions on such parties as would desire to furnish the capital of the province with water. What is offered to the happy contractor? A privilege for 60 years, which will prevent no water-cart man from serving his customers; a guarantee to the extent of 6 per cent (!) on a maximum of 5,000,000\$, *provided the provincial assembly grants it*; to condemn land and houses, for which however he must pay in conformity with a law passed just half a century ago. The government will even endeavor, while assuming no responsibility in the matter, to get the contractors tools through the custom house free. With all these advantages before them, if our readers, one and all, do not rush over to that delectable place, called formerly *Praia Grande* and now aristocratically baptised Niterohy and hand in their bids for supplying water to the hundreds of empty houses there,—why we have lost our time and the provincial authorities are to blame for it. Why should not Mr. Hancox, who has had such cheerful experience make a bid? *The Rio City Improvements Company* also? There are millions in it, gentlemen!

From the *Journal do Commercio*, 9th January.

ANNUAL REVIEW.

The very fertile prairies of Paraná would offer the same advantages to sheep raising, which requires no great care and would in a short time become a flourishing industry, so that we should not see ourselves reduced to the admiration of those fine quarters of mutton that the cold air steamers take regularly from New Zealand to England, touching at Rio de Janeiro as if to upbraid us with our negligence. Not long ago, the eminent editor of the *Economiste Français* replied to a demand from French agriculturists for an increase of duty on foreign corn, by advising them to breed cattle, for the consumption of beef might be extraordinarily extended, while that of corn had reached its limit in Europe.

We will not say the same as regards coffee, their being still extensive fields for consumption unexplored, and into which we must necessarily penetrate, thanks to the intelligent propaganda initiated by the *Centro da Lavoura e do Commercio*, and by it continued with admirable perseverance.

Through the efforts of this worthy association Brazilian coffee, considered to be of inferior quality and only worthy of miserable prices (although sold under the name of the most appreciated qualities) has confounded its libellers and secured a place of honour at expositions organized in New York, Boston and St. Louis in the United States; Quebec, Toronto and Montreal in Canada; Buenos Aires, London; Paris, Nice, Agen and Ville-neuve-sur-Lot in France; Genoa, Lausanne, Zurich, Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dronjem, Vienna, Trieste, Athens and recently in St. Petersburg, Nijni-Novgorod and Olesca. Every where the quality of Brazilian coffee was appreciated, while the diversity of grades excited wonder. Every where were diplomas granted to the producing country and the exposition promoting association. None of these prizes was more flattering than the grand diploma of honor obtained at the Amsterdam exposition, for it was adjudged in the great emporium of coffee, none more promising than those secured in Russia, a European country where the least coffee is consumed [6,300 to 8,000 metrical tons per annum, against 11,000 tons within the narrow boundaries of Switzerland]. This limited consumption can only be the result of excessive prices demanded by intermediaries.

When Brazilian coffees are known and appreciated, and when direct trade is established with Russia, a most extensive consumption of our

principal product will be ready through the vast area of that great empire.....

But, of all the questions which demand the attention of parliament there is none so serious and urgent as that of the improvement of our circulating medium. Of the various causes of the decline in exchange, our paper money is considered the principal, for it is permanent. The differences that occur in international trade, and which a metallic currency would denounce with necessary promptness, pass unperceived for long periods under a régime of paper money and are manifested when dangerous, after the disease is firmly seated. In internal trade also the existence of paper money, which can neither contract nor expand in accordance with the demand, causes at times serious disturbances. A sudden displacement, through large shipments from one to another market of the empire of this agent renders difficult, paralyzes the commercial movement in the places, where it has become scarce. In the past year we had an example of this, where we were very close to a financial crisis, only prevented by the pincidence of the banks. It was, without doubt, under the influence of this fact, a more marked repetition of what had occurred in previous years, that some members of the Chamber of Deputies proposed a change in the form of the bills issued by the Treasury in anticipation of revenue, to the end that the capital represented by these bills, might circulate more freely than was possible under their previous form, and so avert their currency. This step however only in certain cases will be of utility and lessens only in part one of the objections to paper money.

If our economic and financial position does not permit at once of such credit operations as will secure a specie currency; if serious difficulties are also present as to a bank of issue, we have nevertheless the provisions of Art. 2 of the law of 11th September 1846 for the correction of an excessive issue of paper. Alone, this measure would not suffice, it would authorise a restriction of circulation, but not permit an expansion in times of scarcity. The renewal of law No. 2,565 of May 29th 1875, would furnish the means, while mitigating the faults of our currency.

We thus close our remarks, made rapidly, upon some of the questions which have attracted the greatest attention of commerce during the past year.

Journal do Commercio, 18th January.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The collectors general must report without delay the number of free-born children delivered to the state, in virtue of the right of option created by the law of 28th September 1871, as well as whether the respective protests of the masters, who have chosen to receive bonds (*títulos de renda*) were examined and accepted in accordance with decree 5,135 of 13th November 1872. These reports are ordered by the ministry of finance for the purpose of preparing at the Treasury a proposal for the supply of the necessary funds to pay the interest on these bonds. The par is 600\$, interest 6 per cent, and they lose all value at the expiration of 30 years. At present, the estimate is that not less than 360,000 free-born descendants of slaves exist, free-born in virtue of the law of 28th September 1871, and only 150 have been delivered to the state in exchange for the promised indemnity. While these children commenced to reach the age (8 years) when they could be delivered to the authorities five years ago, not one (*nenhum*) bond has been issued or at least no interest has so far been paid. Now it is sought to remedy the evil, through an application to the legislature for the requisite credit, which will be insignificant. It is curious to observe, that upon the approach of the date, when the children free-born under the law of 28th September 1871 would attain the age of eight years, the authorities estimated that, if a sixth part of these, or 4,000 per annum, were delivered to the state, the amount of interest payable to masters who chose indemnity would reach 4,660,000\$ for the first eight years after such date. This estimate was prudent, but facts prove how difficult it is to foresee and calculate in social problems. In the eight years, when it was presumed that an expenditure of 4,660,000\$ was necessary, the state will not have to pay out more than 50 or 60,000\$. This fact in the history of slavery in Brazil deserves attention. The slave-holders have rendered nominal the indemnity secured to them for the bringing up of these children to an age of eight years. The few children turned over to the state, have been so delivered by parties who own an insignificant number of slaves. Of the larger slave-holders, who might have chosen indemnification to a large extent, not one has availed of the law, and many are pointed out who give to the children of their slaves, mild, careful and even loving (*carinhoso*) treatment. This element of voluntary association of slave-holders in the reforms respecting the slavery question seems to us very worthy to be taken into account. Let it be remembered to our honour.

Journal de Commercio, 24th December.

PROVINCE OF PARAHYBA.

On the 30th June of this year the debt of the province of Parahyba was:

Banco do Brazil.....	399,920\$389
Consolidated debt.....	493,275 523
Previous debts (exercícios findos).....	35,520 427
	838,716\$339

In the fiscal year 1882 (which corresponds to the calendar year) the provincial revenue and expenses were:

Revenue collected.....	598,668\$181
Expenses paid.....	534,288 293

Balance..... 64,379\$895

In the fiscal year 1883:

Revenue collected.....	572,035\$379
Expenses paid.....	508,822\$286

Balance..... 3,213\$086

Referring to the sources of production of the province, the president says, that recently they are increased and that the Conde d'Eu railway has assisted to this end. The president goes on:

"The provincial industries are confined to the cultivation of sugar cane and cotton; the breeding of cattle and horses extensively and the manufacture of sugar, the distilling of rum and the preparation of rapadura (a kind of inferior sugar). The breeding industry has much to contend with in the irregularities of the seasons, which are, more or less, felt through all the interior extending from Pernambuco to Maranhão. Agriculture, for which the soil is very suitable, is hampered by want of capital, and of roads. The manufacture of sugar is so backward, that it may said to be in a primitive state. Notwithstanding these hindering influences the economic position of the province is improving. The total provincial receipts from 536,966\$557 in 1882-83 increased to 665,368\$889 in 1883-84.

The slave population was estimated to be 19,778.

Gazeta de Notícias, 15th January.

TELEGRAPHS AND MAILS.

While it is every where a pre-occupation of statesmen to increase the means of transmitting ideas; when by lower charges it is endeavored to augment the international, and internal relations, and also those between private parties, we, following a diametrically opposite system, are at a standstill, if we have not gone backwards, in this important branch of public administration.

It is not long ago; when the industrial and commercial movement, international and internal, was less in this city; when the telephone was unknown, or availed of by few persons, that is when communication was less, much less, the director of the post office ordered a mail collection four or five times per day; to-day, when the necessities for that service are increased, it is limited to two or three collections within the city.

If we look towards the telegraphic service, the intention of obstructing the means of correspondence is still more salient. In 1880 you could send a telegram of thirty words to Parahyba do Norte by paying 15,000, and press telegrams paid 12,000; to-day you must disburse 21,500 and 100 reis more for the receipt!

Years ago the receipt for a registered packet might be demanded; to-day it can only be obtained by a pre-payment of 100 reis. And so forth, etc. The same thing occurs with the postage on printed matter, if rates are not increased, they remain at old figures, which really means an advance, if we take into calculation the reduction in the price of publications and notably of periodicals.

The vindicators of high postal rates declare, that as Brazil is a thinly populated country, such rates must indispensably be maintained, and *ipso facto* as to telegrams. These advocates of the revenue, however, forget, first; that while the post, telegraphs, etc. are sources of revenue to the state, they were not formed to this end, but only as executive measures, and as such, to be conveniently modified; second; that the lower the rates for postage and telegrams, the greater will be the revenue from these sources; and finally that to facilitate these means of communication, is in the social sphere, what the opening of the windows of a room where someone was suffocating would be in the physical. Our statesmen do not so understand it, notwithstanding that the press, and even in parliament on various occasions protests have been made against this evil state of affairs.

The present minister of agriculture, whose zeal and good intentions all recognize, may perhaps do something at least as to postage; but any attempt in that direction as to the *ministry* of the telegraphs of the empire would be useless, or rather would produce a new reaction and with this a probable increase in the charges.

It is really sorrowful to see the banishment, the lack of study and the little care, that these two powerful factors of improvement have received from the authorities of our country.

Notwithstanding the ill will of some people our commercial transactions, our industrial life, all our social machinism increases day by day, although to

a less degree than we have a right to expect, and in which we shall reach when all these obstacles created by a *syndical* policy have been thrown down. Nevertheless, as to those principal points, those of telegraphs and postage we have lost ground. It is not fair to deny that some improvements have been introduced into both departments which have not produced their due effect, because the public so far as it possibly can, refuses to avail of them on account of the heavy demands it is obliged to satisfy. It is not a little to have to contend with; the immense number of those who can not read, and who only rarely and indirectly contribute to the increase of these two departments; how much more important is the repelling (*afastamento*) of the few who could advantageously use them, but do not do so because of the dearth of the rates.

We hope Counsellor Carneiro da Rocha will not lose the opportunity shortly to be furnished by the opening of parliament for proposing something useful and progressive in the matter.

THE COFFEE EXPORTS OF INDIA.

Coffee.—The quantity exported (about 340,000 cwt.) was smaller than in recent years. Value about 144 lakhs. About 24,000 cwt. were sent to Egypt, Arabia, Persia and Turkey in Asia; 85,000 to France, England receiving the bulk of the exports. Last year was not a better one for India coffee than the previous years in which the unfavourable position of the trade was stated. Prices still kept low and production increasing in most of the countries with which India and Ceylon have to compete. The low prices of Brazil coffee a year or so ago, when they stood at half the price of Ceylon coffee, induced consumers to substitute them for these. Java coffee also took its place to some extent. The result was that stocks of Indian and Ceylon coffee accumulated largely and prices fell heavily.

Taking the quantity consumed in India itself, at the very minimum of 100,000 cwt., the production of coffee in India last year may be taken at 440,000 cwt., the value being increased in proportion to 18½ millions of rupees. If this calculation is correct, the value of tea and coffee produced in India in 1883-84 was:

Tea.....	R 45,000,000
Coffee.....	.. 18,500,000

Total..... R 63,500,000
or say five millions sterling. Quantity and value of coffee have gone down since 1879-80. The value of coffee exported in that year was 146,267,000. The figures went gradually down to 113,922,000 in 1882-83, and there was the small recovery to 114,388,000 last year.

Coffee in India, as in Ceylon, has fallen from its high estate and must yield the palm to its young rival tea. The contest against the fungus and unfavourable seasons might have been carried on with a good measure of success, but we have been strangled by illegitimate influences which we could not control. German and French boundaries have not been more injurious to the West Indian sugar-producers than the concentration of slave-labour in Brazil on coffee has been to the coffee planters of India and Ceylon. It is to the accursed slave system that is due such a fatal figure as 616 opposite middling plantation coffee.—*Ceylon Observer*, Nov. 6.

A FOREIGNER'S EXPERIENCES IN THE INTERIOR.

Dear Jack:

Once more I write from a *fazenda*, an improvement on the last one certainly, for although the family with its civilizing influence is away, the owner himself is present and is hospitality itself. For instance, I have been provided with a pair of slippers, trodden down at the heel, of course, in the good old Portuguese style, but still there is a certain air of comfort about slippers, and by curling down my toes and curbing my usual free style of locomotion into a kind of shuffle, I can generally keep them on for about two consecutive minutes, and shall without doubt become an adept before long.

The first long excursion in them was from the *sala* to the dining room, in the course of which I kicked one of them down a flight of stairs and was weak enough to invite a dog to go and fetch it; he went at once, but must have misunderstood me, as he was evidently under the impression that it belonged him to worry the slipper first and afterwards deposit it in the dirtiest part of the farm yard, and I must say he acted up to his convictions admirably.

Slaves seem to spend very little of their time at home; their field labour commencing at cock-crow and lasting till sunset.

The cocks in the country are more regular in their habits than their brethren of the city and don't crow before about 3.30 A.M.; not from any regard for the slaves but probably because there is no one about to stir them up. As many *fazendas* possess no watch or clock, but trust solely to chancellerie, it would be a very serious business if some dissipated rooster were to begin piping out at midnight. After the second crow, a bell tolls

and all the slaves assemble and are marched off to their daily task without any unnecessary noise.

The huts of these unfortunate descendants of Ham are scattered about in no particular order, at the back of the great house; they are airy little edifices made of saplings, mud and *safé* grass; about three-fourths of the area of the walls are covered with mud, and the rest filled up with holes and, in a climate like that of Brazil they are no doubt healthy enough for any one accustomed to sleep in the open air. Of course, the larger estates have more elaborate accommodations for their slaves and even lock them up at night in some cases, but on small farms the same precaution does not appear necessary.

Every thing in the country seems to be done by main strength; the ox carts look as though they had been carried out of a single big tree like a dug-out canoe, but the wheels really are separate for I have seen them turn round, and heard them too. One of these carts will carry about ten bags of coffee and with twelve bullocks yoked to it, will go almost anywhere; if it won't, more bullocks are attached. The trunks of great trees are dragged about, up and down the hills by the same powerful agency; the end of the trunk is slightly raised to a kind of ponderous sledge and a whole drove of oxen yoked to it fill the unruly mass moves as easily as a wheelbarrow.

There is a certain automatic machine used for grinding corn, which no *fazenda* is without; it was introduced from Portugal, and must have been invented some time ago, probably about the time that the ancient Britons dressed themselves in a coat of blue paint. It consists of a ponderous beam with a huge mallet on one end and a trough at the other; the beam is mounted as a lever of the first class with the fulcrum somewhere about the middle, and a continuous stream of water filling into the trough depresses that end of the lever until a point is reached at which the water flows out of the trough almost in one mass, and the weight being thus suddenly removed, the beam regaining its position deals a crushing blow with the mallet on the corn which is contentedly placed in a hollowed block of wood. With a good supply of water about four blows a minute may be delivered, and there is something fascinating about the automatic precision with which the cumbersome contrivance works.

I matched one of these things for so long that I was seized with an irresistible desire to take a bath in the trough, thinking that by lacing up with my feet against the end I could hold on at the extreme slant till the water had been discharged, and then return with the trough to its former position.

If you are ever taken with the same idea, abandon it at once, it is a delusion, I tried it. The first few seconds or so were delightful, cool, refreshing, delicious; but the trough began to descend and I to hold on; still it was delicious, but somehow, not being so mobile as water, I forced the lever lower than it was accustomed to go, and fearing to damage another man's property I thought it better to get out,—it is as much against my inclination, but I got out,—over the end of the trough, much in the same manner as a bag of coffee would have done, and dropped into a muddy pool below, where I permitted myself to make a few cursory remarks in good old Anglo-Saxon.

My host at this *fazenda* is not such a host as old Sebastião; on the contrary he has a family and a house in the city and knows how to do the "Peculiarly cruel" down the Rua do Ouvidor as well as the vaguest dandy there. He shows an interest in the markets and wanted to know this evening how coffee was. I told him coffee was up,—up a tree in fact,—but have my doubts as to his having understood my explanation of that exalted position arrived at by his country's staple.

We have been smoking on the *pates* this evening and telling each other *espanholadas*, which being interpreted signifyeth *yams* of a more or less surprising description. I think the *fazendeiro* had rather the best of it in this pastime, although I freely drew on my recollections of Baron Munchausen, and occasionally even found myself on the verge of saying what was not strictly true.

P. S.—Will you allow me to express myself much pleased to hear that my good natured critic has had such a good time during his experience of the interior of Brazil; may he be spared to enjoy the music, games, and horse-riding of a *fazenda* for many years.

But in justice to myself, allow me to observe that the word *fazenda* is a comprehensive one and not solely applicable to the great estates where a claret hanger coat in the evening is *de rigueur*.

Brazil is a large country, and not a mere modern Arcadia studded with palaces for the recreation of Rio "clerks and skippers."

It would scarcely be fair if a stranger arriving in Rio and going straight to the house of the Baiao de—, in the Catete, were to speak of Rio as a city of palaces. And in like manner, anyone who thinks that one of the great *fazendas* is a fair sample of a Brazilian farm, may easily go a step further and

believe that Alladin's palace is to be found on the banks of the *Xingá*!

There are *fazendas*, *mirabile dictu!* which don't possess a piano. There are *fazendas*, and still I use the word advisedly, which have the base earth for a floor and the wayfarer who puts up there, sleeps on a piece of matting laid thereon, with his boots for a pillow; and very comfortably too.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The provincial assembly of S. Paulo was opened on the 16th inst.

—The *Monitor Campista* thanks Providence for a rain-fall that cleansed the streets and alleys of Campos.

—The Rio Grande do Sul custom houses received in 1884 2,062,097\$646 against 2,220,143\$672 in 1883.

—The party who attacked the editors of the *Diario Mercantil* denies any intention of homicide and says he got a severe bite on the hand.

—The Victoria, Espírito-Santo, custom house receipts were 3,256\$984 in November 1884, against 11,931\$853 for the same month of 1883.

—The custom houses of the province of Rio Grande do Sul received in November 1884 451,849\$651 against 403,354\$751 for the same month of 1883.

—A privilege has been granted for the navigation of the river Yardo, in the province of Bahia, from Canavieiras at its mouth to a place called Jacaranda; distance is not stated.

—Our colleague of the *Diario Mercantil*, S. Paulo, misunderstood us. What we asked was, whether the interest for the last six months of 1884 was included in its table.

—The hoisting of the Argentine flag at Ere is denied by the Brazilian authorities; for, says the magistrate, there is no flag of any kind at that place. This must carry conviction with it.

—The September receipts of the Matto Grosso treasury agency were 43,793\$351, against 53,748\$225 in the preceding year. Of the receipts the Corumbá custom house contributed 43,665\$759 (the *Diario Official* prints 47,665\$759).

—The Pernambuco custom house received during the first half of the fiscal year 1884-85 4,816,891\$191, against 5,990,141\$265 for the same period of the preceding year. Import duties were 871,418\$355 and those on exports 293,771\$366 less.

—The *Correio Paulistano* of the 13th gives the receipts of the *Companhia de Navegação Fluvial* for the past year, at 137,309\$660. About 511 tons of salt and 1,107 tons of sundries were imported and 3,564 tons coffee and 105 tons of sundries exported. The figures are extracted from the *Praticas*, S. Paulo.

—The receipts at the S. Paulo treasury agency for December last were 961,143\$908, against 930,475\$908 for the same month of 1883. The Santos custom house contributed 667,980\$145, divided as follows:

Importation.....	219,603\$526
Port dues.....	2,691 500
Exportation.....	376,450 848
Sundries.....	69,234 271
	667,980\$145

—The slaves in Piahy on the 30th June were estimated to be 17,280. Registered under the Rio Branco law..... 24,898

Arrivals.....	3,821
Departures.....	6,270
	2,449
Deaths.....	2,439
Emancipations.....	2,730
	5,169
	17,280

Some inaccuracies in the tables would however reduce the number to 16,998. There are 8,114 free-born children, beyond the number delivered to emancipated mothers and to the state.

—The *Jornal de Commercio* says that the operations of the engineers employed on the river S. Francisco improvements have produced satisfactory results. Boats of 10 to 20 tons measurement and drawing .80 to 1.25 metres, some fully laden and others with half cargoes have easily and safely passed the Sobradinho rapids both by the channel opened for the steam boats and by that called *Bavara*, which has also been improved by the engineers. During the four months, September-December, 149 boats had passed the Sobradinho rapids, the draft varying from 1 to 1.30 metres. In this period the river is lowest. The internal trade seems to be important and the labours of the engineers deserve praise. Eight provinces contribute to the traffic on this important river, and steam should be at an early date introduced; herefore the navigation has been entirely by sail, or oars. The engineers followed, as closely as possible, the plans of Mr. Minor Roberts,

RAILROAD NOTES

—It is proposed to inaugurate the Paraná railway on February 2nd.

—The president of the province of Rio de Janeiro has accepted the lowest tender, 19,200\$ per kilometre, for the extension to Macahé of the Rio Bonito branch of the Cantagallo railway.

—The Banco Rural e Hypothecario of this city has taken the balance of the debentures of the Leopoldina railway at a price of about 78 per cent. The minimum was fixed in the call for tenders at 80 per cent.

—"The tragedy of the Portuguese railways, it seems, will wind up in a comedy (*vaudeville*). The thing may be called: *noti me tangere* or *Portuguese escape*."—*Monteur des Interêts Matériels*, 21 December.

—The bids for the construction of the Rio Bonito branch of the Cantagallo railway to Macahé, province of Rio de Janeiro, were opened on the 16th. There were 13 tenders ranging from 19,200\$ to 26,625\$ per kilometre. One bid was at 23,980\$ in provincial six per cent *opositos* or 28,700\$ in five per cent *opositos*.

—The minister of agriculture has sent circulars to the presidents of seven provinces asking for information as to the railways and tramways in each; viz: length in traffic, under construction and under survey, technical characteristics, rolling stock, etc.; passenger and freight movement during last year, in relation to preceding years, receipts and expenses, guarantees or other concessions, etc., etc. This is very necessary for an authentic table of railways is indispensable.

RIVER PLATE TERMS.

—The legal tender decree was issued at Buenos Aires on the 10th. It makes the notes of the Banco Nacional legal tender in public departments and in private transactions; the bank is authorized to suspend for two years the conversion of its notes into coin; the maximum issue is fixed for each office and branches at \$28,000,000; the bank may not diminish its present metallic reserve; during the suspension of specie payments and while it is in its net profits must be employed in metallic money and added to the reserve, this amount to be divided upon the resumption of specie payments. The action of the government in excluding the Banco de la Provincia from this decree is unfavorably received by the press, and it was reported that this institution had asked to be contemplated; confidence was expressed as to its position and its notes were at 2 to 3 per cent premium. Gen. Mausilla wrote the president in strong terms as to the decree, and was arrested as malicious for his pains.

Standard 6th January

—The latest "on dit" about the Missions question is that it will be left to the arbitration of President Arthur for this country and Emperor William for Brazil.

—As will be seen by the immigration figures which we give in another column, the number just passes 100,000; and but for the cholera in Europe, the figure would have been over 120,000.

—The Custom House of this port for the month of December gave the largest monthly returns on record very nearly \$2,300,000 m/n. The following are the figures of the twelve months ending December 31st:—

January.....	\$2,000,000 m/n
February.....	1,633,000
March.....	1,964,000
April.....	1,783,000
May.....	1,940,000
June.....	1,763,000
July.....	1,824,000
August.....	1,544,000
September.....	1,669,000
October.....	2,029,000
November.....	1,768,000
December.....	2,282,000
Total.....	\$22,199,000 m/n

The following are the total receipts for the last five years:

1880.....	13,000,000
1881.....	15,710,000
1882.....	16,400,000
1883.....	19,000,000
1884.....	22,200,000

The average monthly returns have risen from 1,083,000 in 1880, 1,366,000 in 1882, and 1,583,000 in 1883 to 1,833,000 in 1884. Such a striking advance shows the swiftest proportions of the trade of the Republic. The returns of 1884 show an increase of nearly 17% over 1883, of more than 35% over 1882 and of 69% over 1880. At this rate the returns of 1885 ought to exceed 25½ millions. All the Custom Houses up rivers show increased returns also, but their figures are not yet known. It is quite possible that the total Customs' returns of the Republic for 1884 exceed 27 million dollars.

—Entire Rios, we hear, is getting heavily into the timber trade with Europe. There is a wood called "Guayabo" that has found special favour in old England, because of its durability.

—The returns of the Rosario Custom House for 1884 amount to 3,800,000 m/n, about half a million more than in the previous year, and twice as much as in 1879, as will be seen by the following figures:

m/n	
1879.....	1,900,000
1880.....	2,000,000
1881.....	2,300,000
1882.....	2,800,000
1883.....	3,250,000
1884.....	3,800,000

This beats the increase of the Custom House of this city; whilst Rosario has an increase of 100 per cent. The Custom of Buenos Ayres only show one of about 70 per cent. The day is not distant when the returns of Rosario will be on a par with those of Montevideo.

—Several Argentine colleagues appear to be writing in bullock carts when dwelling on the progress of the country and casting the horoscope of the future. Only the other day a leading native newspaper contained a lengthy article on the prosperous retrospect of 1884, and, indulging in optimistic views, very gravely argued that the revenue of the nation would reach 35 million dollars in 1886 and 50 millions in 1892. The forecasts are most amusing, as the revenue of the Argentine Government for 1884 amounted to 37 millions, or two millions more than our deluded colleague's optimistic calculation for 1886. At the rate the revenue is growing the returns for 1886 will exceed 50 millions, if no untoward financial changes affect the present progressive ratio. The revenue of 1884 shows an excess of seven millions over that of the previous year, an increase of 23%. If this ratio keeps up, the revenue of 1885 ought to exceed 45½ millions and that of 1886 fifty-six millions. Our colleague reminds us of the days when he sighed for a revenue of 12 millions per annum, and 400 miles of railway. "Tempora mutantur" when writing of the progress of this country; editors should sit on the cow-catchers of the engines of the Southern Railway and not sleep on bullock-cart yokes of the days gone by.

The home and foreign debt of the Argentine Government amounted to 120,000,000 m/n on the 31st ult. Owing to the many loans sanctioned by Congress during the last two years there has been much confusion in this regard, and it is no exaggeration to say that in this market the debt of the Government was calculated at a much higher figure. The fact is that the National Government has at present about 60 millions of money voted by Congress in loans, and not loaned yet. About one-half this amount—say thirty millions—is in the hands of negotiators in London and Paris. Owing to the critical position of this market it is very probable that these loans will be limited to the amounts which are being negotiated. The service on the present indebtedness is about 12 millions per annum—about 32% of last year's revenue. When we consider that Australia owes over 100 millions sterling we may well say that the Argentine debt is an insignificant burden on the resources of the Republic. The Roca Government has pledged itself to make no more loans and to curtail expenses on a sweeping scale; the revenue of the country, meantime, surpasses all expectations and the storm that is threatening the market will probably be of short duration.

The gigantic applications for exchange at the National Bank were the favorite topic of discussion in all circles today. Owing to the Board's policy of merely granting a fraction of the amounts applied for it has become a normal line of conduct in the market to apply for double the amount of exchange required. This is so risible that it is acknowledged all round, and this coupled with the unscrupulous speculation which is supposed to be rampant, increases the difficulties of the situation. Some opinion that the Bank should not give a farthing but it is known that the Board have decided to grant about £200,000 of the fifteen hundred thousand pounds asked. It was rumored this evening that the Banks, backed by the Government, would adopt further steps to put a stop to these unscrupulous applications, but all are at a loss to guess what steps can be taken in this matter. It looks pretty clear that there is a determined attempt in the market, whether arising from "bona-fide" wants or from speculative motives, to exhaust the Banks and to drive the Government into forced currency. The Government will do its utmost to defeat this purpose, but the query arises can it successfully grapple with the market?

The Customs receipts of Entre Rios show an increase of 18 per cent. over 1883, which is a fair test of the growing prosperity of that province.

Year 1883.....	\$49,000
1884.....	1,006,000
Increase.....	157,000

The ports of greatest income are Concordia and Gualeguaychú, each standing for \$122,000 Customs dues.

LOCAL NOTES

—The Chilean ironclad *Blanco Encalada* arrived here on the 16th from Valparaíso, on her voyage to England.

—The flying squadron has not flown. The *Sede de Selenia* [ironclad] has been detached, as needing repairs.

—A new decoration has been instituted in the form of a medal to be used by the members of the protective association of the Poor House.

—A furious article in the *Diário do Brasil* against the directors of the Bank of Brazil has attracted considerable attention.

—We congratulate our colleague of the *Revista Commercial, Financiera e Maritima* on his annual review, which shows judicious labour and great care.

—All right colleague, *chelim* [with an m] or *shilings*. If we only can secure enough of the coin, we will not quarrel as to its orthography.

—How is this for geographical knowledge? *Pai steamer Ville de Bohai*. Messieurs....., Negociants, Rio de Janeiro, [United States of America] and yet the letter reached its destination!

—We have to get our local news from abroad, or from the provinces. The Portuguese papers say that France had demanded satisfaction of our government for firing on the *Gronde*.

—For the first time republican deputies, elected as such, will have seats in the Chamber. S. Paulo sends two and Rio Grande do Sul one. The coming session promises to be a lively one.

—The officers of the *Riochelo* gave an entertainment to their Chilean colleagues of the *Blanco Encalada* on the 20th; there were toasts, and dancing etc, and the affair seems to have been a success.

—We have to thank our colleague of the *Voz* for publishing the result of the *Albistete* for the election of the three most eminent Portuguese writers, who it seems are: Castello Branco, Pl. nheiro Chagas and Latino Coelho.

—The *Gazeta de Noticias* does not use kid gloves in treating of the contract between the Municipal Chamber and the son of one of the elites, by which the space heretofore occupied by the market gardeners at our market has become private property.

—That B. A. are door-keepers of government departments is no news. But when a Baron, *Lord Thos*, wants to be appointed a notary public at Macahé it does strike one as peculiar. The *Folha Nova* prints the news, and news it is!

—The *Brasil* is unlucky. The *Diário Oficial* gives it another slap, *opropos* of an attack on a newspaper office in Pernambuco, which the president of that province almost gives us to understand was a case of exaggerated imagination.

—The telephonic service here needs a speedy reform. Subscribers do not pay 160\$000 per annum to hear conversations at the central station, nor do they wish to be obliged to ring up the employees, two, three, and some times four times before the slightest attention is paid to the call. It is better to walk!

—The police do not proceed aught in their endeavors to break up the *route* tables that are swarming here. When an establishment is entered and players and machines captured, the latter should be immediately burnt and the names of the former published *in extenso*. It might not be of general interest, but we think such a list would have a salutary effect.

—While the daily papers are admiring the model of a statue of Progress, to be cast in iron and placed on the central station of the D. Pedro II railway, one of them notices that a letter from a station in the interior about 184 kilometres from Rio was from the 8th October to the 15th January in reaching its destination.

—O *Piaz* published that a committee of seamstresses had waited on the minister of marine to protest against the partiality (*partial*) and unjust (*injusto*) manner in which the sewing was given out. In its next number our colleague makes the *amende honorable* by stating that the protest was not against the employees who distribute the sewing, but against the place of distribution. Our colleague was too strong in his adjectives.

—The minister of finance paid a visit to the Mint (where stamps are coined) and among other things he observed with the greatest attention the benefits arising to the post office from the use of stamps, *better and cheaper* than the old ones. That the postage stamps should be cheaper, for they are nasty enough, could only be expected, but how Senator Dantas can agree that they are better is a mystery. The Mint seems to have done its best to make the Emperor ridiculous; for the portraits as on the cheaper stamps, is the likeness of nothing; above, on the level, or beneath the level of this world.

—The City Improvements Company is to receive 775,818\$500 for the six months, June-December 1884.

—The French paper *Le Matin* uses strong language about the *Gronde* affair. It will hardly interest our readers.

—What a result will come of the special correspondents' trip south! Snakes three metres long are already promised.

—O *Piaz* is on the track of another Castro Malta mystery. The colleague would have made a splendid reindeer of police victims.

—Who is David da Proster? The *Gazeta de Noticias* says he is an American Admiral who has furnished certain figures to the Navy department about expenditures.

—Our colleague of the *Folha Nova* has made a curious mistake. He accused the husband of the lady who directs the shop where the poisoning was attempted by a basket of fruit, and very naturally the gentlemen gets up on his ear.

—A basket of fruit, into which strychnine had been put was sent to a sewing girl on the 19th. As she was not in, her companion attracted by the present ate a fig and was immediately seized with convulsions. The police hope to catch the guilty party.

—The 61st concert of the Club Beethoven was only sparsely attended. In fact it is too hot for concerts. The programme was good and well executed, but there was a lack of variety. Partridge is good and so is violin-playing, but *enjoys per dixie*, you know?

—Progress? A slave boy was taken charge of on the 16th by the police; he had on a tin mask, which his master said was placed on him to prevent his eating clay. It seems to us that medical treatment was more necessary than what the *Jornal* calls *barbarity*.

—"It is stipulated in this project that to the north of this parallel (40°, Dakota is in question) the district will remain a territory, where all the officers scattered over the present territory will be sent."—O *Piaz*, 22nd January. Does it not seem just a trifle hard on the officers?

—A police patrol picked up a negro boy on the morning of the 20th who was ornamented with a chain and ball, well secured by a padlock. He said he had availed of his master going to a ball to escape from the hard life he was leading; a feature of which was, that to conceal his iron, he was forced to use, [if we may use the word] petticoats!

—The *Jornal de Commercio* prints the following in reference to the slave population of the empire:

provinces	slaves	60 years old
Alagoas.....	281,994	23,662
Rio Grande do Norte.....	9,500	270
Sergipe.....	25,000	1,673
Alagoas.....	26,500	1,865
Paraná.....	6,800	88
Goyaz.....	6,500	321
Pernambuco.....	83,000	5,835
Rio de Janeiro.....	260,000	29,227
	699,294	62,941

Or say as near as possible 9 per cent. Our colleague calls attention to the fact as a contradiction to a statement made at the Council of state when one half of the slaves were estimated to be over 60 years of age.

BRITISH EDUCATION AUXILIARY FUND.

The present report covers a period of 14 months, from 1st November 1883 to 31 December 1884.

The seat of the School was removed after the Christmas holidays from the Saude district to the Laranjeiras. This measure while involving some additional expenditure, has resulted in a considerable increase of attendance. 20 children have attended school during the year now ended, 16 of whom have paid the regular fees. The average attendance of each scholar during the time that he has been regarded as belonging to the School is about 83 % of the regular school-days. The number attending during December was only 11, of whom 8 were paying fees.

Subjoined is a statement of receipts and expenditure for 14 months ending 31 December 1884; the subscriptions for 12 months having been found sufficient, with the balance already in hand, to cover the expenses for the longer period.

Receipts:

Balance in hand 1st November '83.....	412\$350
Subscriptions and Donations.....	857 200
Pupils' fees.....	374 000
Interest on Bank deposit.....	9 430
	1,652\$980

Expenditure:

Miss Galt's salary.....	840\$000
do travelling expenses.....	148 800
do hours on fees.....	101 500
Rent of schoolroom, 12 mo.....	240 000
Stationery.....	600
	1,330 900

Balance to 1885..... 322\$080
Rio de Janeiro, 15th January 1885.—*Fred. Young, Chaplain.—Jno. R. Slatham, Treasurer.*

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<i>Lafayette</i> [do do]	" 31st

To Europe:

<i>Buffon</i> Belgian Mail	Jan. 15th
<i>Gauche</i> do	" 22nd
<i>Dalton</i> Liverpool via Pernambuco	" 10th

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